

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention concerns an in vitro process for  
altering the insect host range (spectrum) of pesti-  
cidal toxins. The process comprises recombining in  
vitro the variable region(s) (non-homologous) of two  
or more genes encoding a pesticidal toxin. Specifi-  
cally exemplified is the recombining of the variable  
regions of two genes obtained from well-known strains  
of Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki. The resulting  
products are chimeric toxins which are shown to have  
an expanded and/or amplified insect host range as  
compared to the parent toxins.

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